



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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March 28, 2006

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EDMC

Mr. Larry Romine
Richland Operations Office
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN A6-33
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Letter 02-WMD-044, "Stabilization Option for Hexone Tanks," from
P. Knollmeyer, USDOE, to B. Wilson, Ecology, dated November 21, 2001

Dear Mr. Romine:

The Department of Ecology has been considering the closure path for 241-CX-70, 241-CX-71, and 241-CX-72 Storage Tanks and the 276-S-141 and 276-S-142 hexone tanks (Operable Unit IS-1). Ecology recommends that the United States Department of Energy – Richland Operations Office (USDOE-RL) proceed with closure on these five tanks by removing the tanks in a coordinated manner.

Ecology evaluated sampling of the tanks residuals and the soils to determine if the tanks leaked. We concluded that sampling is not a viable alternative because the tanks are small in volume and sampling the tanks and soil will not:

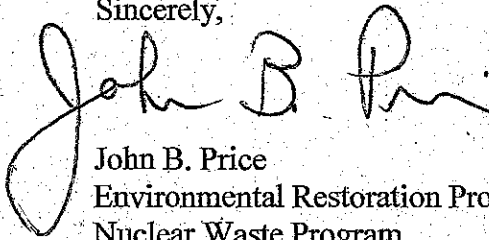
- Be cost or time effective compared to removal.
- Provide reasonable assurance that human health and the environment will be protected.
- Ensure that tank removal is unnecessary.

Additionally, when Ecology agreed to interim stabilization of the hexone tanks, it was partly on the basis of USDOE-RL insistence that it could realize cost efficiencies by processing (e.g. size reduction) multiple tanks through a single facility (reference Letter 02-WMD-044). The CX tanks could be processed along with the hexone tanks to realize these cost efficiencies.

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, contact me at (509) 372-7921 or Brenda Jentzen at (509) 372-7912.

Sincerely,



John B. Price
Environmental Restoration Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

BKJ:lkd

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Administrative Record: 200-IS-1 and 200-ST-1
Environmental Portal
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